figuring that out of their total operation. Within this total reduction there was a 1.5 percent across the board for inflation. So there were other areas that were given. One thing that they are pleased about is there was an increase in the capital funds, operation, capital construction for the university which they had never had before. I think they need that. There is work that needs to be done over there and their need to address that. So I would ask that you would seriously consider this, adopt this amendment and we could go on and deal with the budget as we will. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Avery. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LB 499, LB 699, LB 739, LB 805, LB 856, LB 140, LB 438, LB 438A, LB 459, LB 473, LB 391, LB 393 and LB 395. (See page 2251 of the Legislative Journal.) Senator Wehrbein, your light is next, followed by Senators Bernard-Stevens, Maurstad and Crosby.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker, members, Senator Avery, can I ask exactly what the basis for these cuts are? Does it represent, did you say 3 percent or is there a...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Avery.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...and what were the earmarks that you were talking about? Is that included in this amendment?

SENATOR AVERY: Yes, it is.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I rise to oppose it, but I want to be sure what we're talking about.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay, there...in terms of what was earmarked before was, 11 items were earmarked and, basiculty, I remove the earmarks from the areas of operation.

SENATOR WEHREEIN: Such as?

SENATOR AVERY: There's several programs that pass through yet in terms of the aid dollars.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Such as? I was wanting a little more detail.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay. The EPSCoR, the targeted research area